27 August 1965

Miss Marjorie McAlinden
CALIFORNIA FARMER
Room 402, 2412 W. Seventh St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90057

Dear Miss McAlinden:

You were wise to have planned your trip to the Fair. The descriptions of some of the exhibits sounded good. Possibly now one does not have to wait hours to visit the choice exhibits. The Pieta would be a highlight for anyone visiting the fair. Fortunately during the War, I was able to visit the Pieta in the home site in St. Peter's.

Here are the best I could do with your last samples:

No. 1 - Is Elaeagnus pungens Thunb. of the Oleaster Family, Elaeagnaceae. It is a beautiful evergreen spreading shrub to 15 feet. Its beauty comes largely from the numerous peltate, silvery and brown scales covering the surface of the leaves and twigs, most densely so on the undersurface of the leaves. I recently planted a shrub of this species in my backyard. It is native to China and Japan.

No. 2 - Appears to be a fragment of Solanum nodiflorum Jacq., deadly or black nightshade of the Solanaceae. It is an introduced, common weed with black berries 5-6 mm. in diameter with many seeds.

No. 3 - Is difficult to identify from the sterile seedling. It looks like one of the introduced sagebrushes, Artemesia sp. The leaves are somewhat like our native A. ludoviciana but I don't think it is that. If I could have a mature specimen with some of the fls. or fr., I think I could name it rather easily.

No. 4 - Is indeed Rhamnus alaternus L., Buckthorn. It is an evergreen shrub to 15 or 20 feet high and a native of southern Europe. The fruit are globose, dull red drupes, turning black at maturity.

Sincerely yours,

Robert F. Thorne